

**SUPPLEMENTARY ACTION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS
RECOMMENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING THAT THE
NAME "PALAEMON ADSPERSUS" RATHKE, 1837 (CLASS
CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) SHALL BE THE OLDEST
AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE TAXON IN QUESTION**

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(For the original application submitted in this see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*
13 : 142-153)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 446)

I much regret to have to report that since the preparation of the application which I submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for the use of the Plenary Powers to suppress the specific name *squilla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer squilla*, and matters incidental thereto (1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 142-153) certain additional information has come to light which makes it necessary to amplify in some respects the application previously submitted.

2. First, it is necessary to note that in 1826 (*Natuurk. Verhand. Hollandsche Mij. Wetensch.* 15 : 262) Anslin in the introduction to a paper in Dutch concerning the Insecta of the Netherlands introduced (: 1) in a rather casual way the new name *Palaemon communis* as a substitute for the name *Cancer squilla* Linnaeus, 1758. I have been quite unable to trace any later use of this name or even to find a reference to its existence in the literature either in Sherborn's *Index Animalium* or elsewhere. The name *Palaemon communis* Anslin has priority over the name *Palaemon adspersus* Rathke, 1837, and, unless supplementary action is taken by the Commission, would replace that name if in response to the application already submitted the Commission were to suppress the specific name *squilla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer squilla*. In my earlier application I have explained how important it is to put an end to the confusion and diversity of practice which has grown up in the matter of the name to be used for this prawn and have recommended that order should be restored by the Commission taking action

to secure that the specific name *adpersus* Rathke—a name which is well understood by all carcinologists and as to which no difficulties of interpretation exist—shall be the oldest available name for this important species. The introduction of the totally unknown specific name *communis* Ansljn for this species would inevitably usher in a new era of confusion and would, in my view, be totally at variance with modern ideas as to the need for avoiding objectionable name-changing. I therefore now supplement my previous application by asking that the specific name *communis* Ansljn, 1826, as published in the combination *Palaemon communis*, be suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

3. Second, it is necessary to draw attention to two ancient *nomina dubia* which represent a potential threat to the stability of the specific name *tenuicornis* Say, 1818, as published in the combination *Palaemon tenuicornis*, another of the names which in my earlier application I asked should be protected by being placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. The *nomina dubia* here in question are :—

Penaeus punctatissimus Bosc, [1801–1802], in Castel (R.R.), Suite à Buffon, *Hist. nat. Crust.* 2 : 109, pl. 14, fig. 3

Penaeus adpersus Tilesius, 1818, *Neue Ann. Wetterau. Ges. Naturk.* 1(1) : 4, pl. 21a, fig. 1

4. The descriptions and figures given by Bosc and Tilesius respectively have been discussed in some detail in a paper by myself published in 1952 (*Occ. Pap. Allan Hancock Found.* 12 : 166, 167). In each case both description and figure are extremely poor and cannot be assigned with certainty to any known species, though they show some resemblance to the species now known as *Leander tenuicornis* (Say, 1818). Neither of these *nomina dubia* serves any useful purpose and it is accordingly recommended that both of these names should now be suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority, though not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

5. Finally, the present opportunity may conveniently be taken to draw attention to the name *Astacus locusta* Fabricius (J.C.), 1781 (*Spec. Ins.* 1 : 513), a name which was not mentioned in my earlier application. This name is a senior subjective synonym of *Palaemon tenuicornis* Say, 1818, discussed above, but it cannot be used for that species, for that name is invalid in the genus *Astacus*, where it is a junior secondary homonym of *Astacus locusta* (Linnaeus, 1758) (= *Cancer locusta* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 634) through the action of Pennant (1777, *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) 4 : 21) in transferring *locusta*

Linnaeus to the genus *Astacus*. The specific name *locusta* Linnaeus is the valid name for the species concerned, which is currently placed in the genus *Gammarus* Fabricius, 1775. In order to complete the action required in this case, (i) the specific name *locusta* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the combination *Astacus locusta* should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with a note that it is invalid for the reason explained above, and (ii) the specific name *locusta* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer locusta*, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

6. The concrete proposals which I now submit and which I regret were not included among the recommendations previously submitted are that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, when taking its decision on my earlier application, should in addition :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the under-mentioned specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—

- (a) *communis* Anslin, 1826, as published in the combination *Palaemon communis* ;
- (b) *adpersus* Tilesius, 1818, as published in the combination *Penaeus adpersus* ;
- (c) *punctatissimus* Bosc, [1801–1802], as published in the combination *Penaeus punctatissimus* ;

- (2) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) the three specific names specified in (1) above, as there proposed to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers ;
- (b) *locusta* Fabricius (J.C.), 1781, as published in the combination *Astacus locusta* (invalid, because a junior secondary homonym of *locusta* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer locusta*, through the action of Pennant (1777) in transferring that species to the genus *Astacus*) ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

locusta Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer locusta*.

PURCHASED
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